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PANELS HELP CREATE STRIKING FAÇADE FOR NEW HOSPITAL BUILDING

The new Critical Care Unit at Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital will feature an innovative new curtain walling system, with panels supplied by bespoke architectural panel manufacturer Panel Systems.



The architects Capita Percy Thomas specified aluminium composite panels with a metallic silver finish, which are fixed within an extruded aluminium frame. This innovative method of construction allows for the creation of a stunning flush-glazed façade to the building. This system was developed to meet the needs of building designers looking for an alternative to traditional curtain walling systems, where the composite panels sit in an existing frame, which can often look bulky.

Panel Systems manufactured 1,600m² of the bespoke panel, which consisted of a 150mm core of mineral fibre lamella, to ensure it offered both acoustic and fire retardant properties.

The panels on this project were toggle fixed onto the curtain walling grid in the same way that a fixed light or opening vent is installed within the system. The opening

vents have the same sightlines as the fixed panes, ensuring optimum aesthetics. This offers the architect the option to fit any combination of solid panels, fixed lights or opening vents anywhere within the curtain walling grid without causing any issues with drainage yet creating an aesthetically pleasing façade. The panels can be colour matched to suit both internal and external aesthetics.

Danny Phelan, Sales Manager at Panel Systems, explains: "This method of construction is very cutting edge and is well suited to contemporary builds. It offers architects a great deal of flexibility and is ideal for both high and low rise buildings. It was important on this project that we could provide bespoke panels within a short time frame and with direct deliveries to site at scheduled times. This came about because of a good working relationship between ourselves and the contractor."

The £143m Critical Care building, which is due for completion in 2012, will provide accident and emergency services, for up to 80,000 attendances every year, as well as operating theatres, intensive care, an education centre, burns and maternity unit.

Architectural panels from Panel Systems consist of three or more materials that are laminated in its factory to form a structural unit. Each panel features a low density insulated core material and high density facing and balancing materials to ensure a rigid structural panel. The panels are designed to span over large areas, which gives the specifier greater flexibility when considering the overall design.

Panel Systems has the experience and expertise to work with a range of facing materials, such external laminate, plastisol steel and aluminium to name but a few. This means the Panel Systems range of architectural panels can satisfy customer's requirements for aesthetics, longevity, acoustics, thermal insulation, fire and impact resistance.

For more information on Panel systems bespoke range of composite aluminium panels, telephone: 0114 249 5635, or visit: www.composite-panel.co.uk
Panel Systems manufactures a full range of bespoke composite panels that are used to create aesthetically striking and thermally efficient buildings

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Note to editors.

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